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## **Gilbert Urges FEMA to Reconsider Costly Flood Plain Plans**

(LANSING) -- In an effort to avoid costly inconveniences for families and businesses, state Senator Jud Gilbert is urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reject proposed changes to certain flood plain elevation thresholds in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

“During these difficult financial times, government should be examining ways to alleviate financial hardship on our families and businesses, not strapping them with unnecessary costs and regulations,” Gilbert said. “I strongly urge FEMA to abandon the implementation of these proposed elevation changes.”

Gilbert, R-Algonac, was recently informed that FEMA is planning changes to the flood plain elevation thresholds in Clay Township, Ira Township and the City of Algonac. The proposed changes will elevate flood plain levels by 1.3 feet, 1.5 feet and .5 feet, respectively.

According to Gilbert, these changes will force families who build their homes years ago adhering to necessary elevation requirements now face the prospect of having to purchase costly flood insurance.

“These proposed changes are an unnecessary expense and inconvenience to families and businesses who met necessary requirements when their homes were built,” said Gilbert. “It makes even less sense at a time when water levels in this portion of the Great Lakes basin are within inches of record lows.”